

# Running with the Pack

January 2017

[www.lakelouisesnowmachineclub.com](http://www.lakelouisesnowmachineclub.com)

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**Clear, Cold, and No Snow**.....seems to be what the weatherman has been predicting so far this season. Sounds like the same story all over this part of Alaska too.

You'll find right now all the trails off of the lakes here to be marginal at best for the lack of snow. They are rough as the dickens and show bare spots in many places. Travel on the lakes has been good with snow being around 8 -10" deep and no overflow showing up yet. The trail was marked this past week by several folks up to spend the holidays. The problem now is, people are once again driving down the marked trails with their trucks and SUV's. This totally destroys any effort to maintain a groomed trail. Please pass the word to folks, this is not acceptable! If they must cross the trail, they should cross at a 90 deg. angle. Their ruts pose a hazard for snowmobiles and makes it a waste of time and resources grooming.

Hopefully the New Year will bring us a big dump of snow so we can get out and enjoy the season.

## Trail news.....

This year we were able to acquire enough funds from SnoTRAC and the Borough to adequately groom our trails several times providing we get the snow. We have the Tucker all set up and ready for action and only a few minor maintenance items to have Big Foot ready too.

We were lucky to get any grant money from SnoTRAC this year because of the Governor's last year's budget cuts. Because of a write in effort from individuals and Snowmobile organizations last spring, these funds were put back into budget for this season only. As it stands now the SnoTRAC board will no longer exist this coming year and all your registration dollars will go to the general fund not for trails! **Now is the time** to write a note, call, or email your state representatives, asking them to reinstate the SnoTRAC program and fund the trails. All our snowmobile/ATV registration money is supposed to be allocated to trail development and grooming. Now that a new legislative session is beginning in Juneau, it is absolutely imperative for you to contact the governor and your representatives and tell them this is a "user" paid for program and doesn't effect the State operating budget.

We're still in the process of acquiring easements for the Tolsona and Big Rock trails from DNR. No progress has been made since the spring of 2015. DNR has required us to do more survey work on these trails to get the easements. We spent last year searching for grant money to help pay the \$20,000 + it will cost to get the job done. We've been unsuccessful finding any

grants available, so the board last year voted to move forward using Club funds. This year we plan to work with a surveyor to gather all the information needed to submit to DNR.

As a reminder, the Club has three trail groomers for everyone to use. They are painted yellow and one is located on Lake Susitna in front of Harry Holt's cabin and the other two will be next to the dock at Lake Louise Lodge. These groomers work great behind any snowmachine and make great trail around your cabin. One tip on sports: If you have freight to haul in this year, groom yourself a trail ahead of time and save yourself a lot of time, effort, and frustration.

## Events this year.....

Once again John and Yvette at the Lake Louise Lodge have scheduled a variety of fun events for this winter. [You can find the complete schedule on our Events Link.](#)

As for official club events, there is **Wolf Pack Weekend, Sat. March 11<sup>th</sup>**. Everyone knows what that means...lots of fun! There will be a fun run during the day for adults and kids alike to Crosswind Lake where we will stop at "Doc & Chico's" for snacks and to warm up before we head back. Then beginning at 7pm, we'll begin our almost legendary Basket Auction Fund Raiser. Right after the auction, there will be music and merry making by Roger Swanstrom. Start putting together your basket and plan to join this epic night of fun, March 11.

The next important date for all members to remember is **Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**. This is the day we'll hold our **Annual Membership Meeting**. All members need to attend as we discuss all the year's Club business, what we want to accomplish in the next year, and most importantly elect new members to the board.

On a bit of a personal note, several of the current board members have served for many years and have expressed a desire to no longer to be on the board. We encourage anyone interested in the future of the Club, to let your interests be known. Contact any one of the current board members if you would like to partake as a board member.

## Club Dues....

As a reminder member dues are due January 1st each year. You may also find soon in your snail mail box a reminder as well. [If you're not sure if you are current or not, you can check by clicking the link on our home page.](#) and then find your name. If you do get a mailed reminder and don't need it, pass it on to someone who isn't a member and encourage them to join. A strong active membership is important to our interests and the community's.

Dues can be mailed in or even quicker yet, paid on line. [Click on the Membership / Donation link on the web page and take it from there.](#) Dues are our only revenue resource other than the basket auction. So it's important folks to keep current so we can continue developing and improving the trails.

## Club Mail....

Last year we had some issues with the Post Office returning mail to the sender. We thought we had the issue solved but we've had one individual's dues returned to him just recently. If this happens to you will you please let us know with a phone call or email. This will help a lot.

Lets all have a safe and wonderful riding season, be involved with your Club.....and most of all ...

**THINK SNOW !!!!!**